

RI Transportation *Digest*

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Rhode Island Department of Transportation Newsletter



THE IWAY SIGNATURE BRIDGE: This bridge will pass over the Providence River with the Relocation of I-195 in Providence. It is being assembled at Quonset, and will be floated to Providence in early summer 2006. (Photo by Patrick Vu)

Highway & Bridge Maintenance sign shop creates wave logo for RIDOT trucks

By Sarah Vaz

Rhode Island's wave graphic found another home this fall when RIDOT unveiled a new logo for Highway and Bridge Maintenance's heavy duty trucks. In combining the Ocean State's favorite symbol with the basic principles of the previous logo, Maintenance administrators hoped to offer a friendlier and sleeker image of the Division on the roads.

Ed Golden and Dan Gannon of Highway & Bridge Maintenance's Traffic Division Sign Shop worked quickly to bring the concept to fruition.

Perhaps best known for their work creating highway signs, Golden and Gannon, both professional commercial artists, enjoy the occasional opportunity to put their creative skills to use for the state. Whether it is designing lettering for office doors at headquarters or helping out other state agencies like DEM, DMV and the Fire Marshall, the two take great pride in their

work and share an enthusiasm for the trade.

Golden has been a member of the sign shop team for seven years, Gannon for five. Both have been in the business for almost 40 years, including about 20 years spent prior to State service in their own sign shops.

Over the past few years, the two brought the newest computerized sign technology to the State, and are thankful for the co-operation they received in doing so. Now RIDOT's sign shop boasts cutting edge technology, comparable to any private shop and it is fully compatible with the latest techniques. Most recently, they brought in a third team member, technician Leon Laramee.



(See Logo, Page 3)

RIDOT helps launch 50th Anniversary of the Interstate

By Dana Alexander Nolfé

On January 11, 2006, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) helped launch the national celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Interstate. Chief Public Affairs Officer Dana Alexander Nolfé, who is on the national planning committee for the celebration, was in Detroit, Michigan to help with the kick off.

"Rhode Island was selected to be the northeast representative for this year's historic events," said Nolfé. "With national and international media covering this important story, RIDOT can expect to receive some 'good news' coverage."

In 1919 Dwight D. Eisenhower, then a young officer in the US Army, got the idea that the United States should have a better system of interconnected roadways than the pitted and muddy ruts he was forced to travel on during a trek from DC to San Francisco. On June 29, 1956, as President, Eisenhower signed into law the "Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956."

"The bill creating the Interstate Highway System was one of the earliest votes I participated in as a member of Congress," said Michigan Congressman John Dingell who attended the 50th Anniversary launch event, and who recently celebrated his own 50th anniversary as a member of the US House of Representatives.

To mark this historic act, and celebrate its 50th anniversary, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) along with all 50 states will host a series of events on June 29, 2006. RIDOT is planning to unveil the world's largest Interstate map in the smallest state on that date at an event to be held

(See Interstate, Page 3)

From the Director's Office

At the last meeting of Construction Industries of Rhode Island in October, I was preparing to review our accomplishments for the audience. The industry representatives however, surprised me by first congratulating us as a team for having advertised and awarded over \$300 million in contracts in fiscal year 2005. This was a major accomplishment that everyone should be proud of.



DIRECTOR JAMES R. CAPALDI, P.E. sets an example for all, getting a flu shot at the RIDOT annual flu clinic held this fall.

I'd like to also note that we are now receiving continuous praise on how good the roads look; how we are plowing and keeping the roads open to the public.

As I prepare the Director's message on January 12, 2006, the temperature outside is 55°. A year ago, in mid-January 2005, we battled a blizzard. We have had three colder than normal winters in a row, and I hope that this means Mother Nature will give us a break this winter.

At the opposite end of the weather spectrum, we all remember Friday, December 9. That's when we had what the meteorologists call "bombogenesis." Despite the weather, RIDOT responded well. Here's how a competitor in the US Cyclocross Championships, held that day in Providence, described it in his weblog:

The Providence CX Nationals will be known as the year of the 'Snowacane.' Friday's races opened in a snow storm, followed by a few hours of rain and then, to the surprise of the National Weather Service, by plunging temperatures, 40 mph winds, hail in varying sizes, and finally a white-out blizzard.

It started in rain and ending in meteorological Armageddon. When the temperature drops 10 degrees during a 45 minute race, you might think

something is a little weird. The local newspaper had a term for it, which sounds totally made up: bombogenesis. It has something to do with a very rapid drop in air pressure. Like a bomb going off.

2005 was the first year ever that RIDOT had all the sand removed from the roads by the end of July. By then we were also busy cutting the grass. We mounted a very significant campaign with the Adult Correctional Institution this year to remove litter from our highways, and we received strong praise from Governor Carcieri.

For many years as I moved up the ranks in Design, I thought it would be a great idea to have a dedicated writer to respond to all the letters we receive. In fact, in my confirmation hearings, I promised legislators that we would provide quick response to their inquiries. I followed through on that promise, working with Dana Nolfie in the Communications Office to designate a member of her staff.

Heidi Cote became our dedicated letter writer, and in 2005 she responded to more than 400 letters to RIDOT. Her responses require communication with and cooperation from various members of the staff, and all our offices have cooperated with Heidi through the year. I am pleased it has been such a successful team effort, and I'd like to thank Heidi and Dana, and all our offices, for working together on this.

Our latest GARVEE presentation overwhelmed the bond agencies. I was there to sell them on our program, but depended on materials prepared by various RIDOT staff. RIDOT had promised the bond agencies that we would award 14 contracts worth \$400 million with GARVEE funding by now. While surviving a crisis in the cost of both steel and concrete, we actually have been able to award the 14 contracts worth \$460 million.

Included in this work is the Relocation of Route 403 in North Kingstown, which is on budget and ahead of schedule, and the Replacement of Washington Bridge #200, which is also on budget and ahead of schedule. The other projects supported by GARVEE funds are on schedule.

We finally got a new Highway Bill passed and signed into law late last summer, and that will run until 2009.

This year I am looking forward to two major events in our schedule, both involving major Rhode Island bridges. First is the demolition of the old Jamestown bridge. The first and most significant controlled demolition is scheduled before Memorial Day. After that, depending on weather and the Bay currents in June and July, we will be floating the new Providence River Bridge from Quonset, where it is being assembled, to its permanent location immediately south of the Hurricane Barrier in Providence. It is the bridge that will cross the Providence River as part of the Relocation of I-195.

Recognizing that, 2006 is an election year, we can expect heightened activity, more requests and increased scrutiny of our Department, as there always is in election years. Please remember, all you need is to continue doing the great job you have been doing. That will give me the opportunity to respond to any request.

I'm expecting a busy and exciting year!

Efficient work on Cliff Walk at Marble House

We want to thank all involved in the Cliff Walk project at Marble House for their efficient completion of the job. We thought we would be inconvenienced for months and months and are so pleased that you finished ahead of schedule.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

Sincerely,
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Herrlinger, II
Newport, RI

Correction

Several people were omitted from the list of those involved preparing for the AAS-HTO Bridge Conference held last summer in Newport. They include Anthony DeAngelis, Paul Vartian, and Ed Golden and Dan Gannon of the RIDOT Highway and Bridge Maintenance sign shop who made signs for the conference. Also Christos Xenophontos and Mary Gelardi for their help with the conference's Information Technology needs, and Dorothy Pasquale and John Napolitano for their help in using the State credit card. All their efforts made putting on a huge conference much easier.

****Interstate***

Continued from Page 1

at Eisenhower's summer White House located in Fort Adams, Newport. RIDOT will also participate in a return recreation of Eisenhower's 1919 convoy running from San Francisco back to DC, traveling mostly along I-80.

In addition to the convoy recreation this June, RIDOT will participate in events at the Transportation Research Board conference at the end of January, the AASHTO Washington Briefing in February, and regional transportation events such as the Northeast Association of State Transportation Officials (NASTO) Conference in June.

"Rhode Island's Interstate system has served us well," said RIDOT Director James R. Capaldi, P.E., "and improving this transportation system is something we can all be proud of."

AASHTO Executive Director John Horsley who participated in the anniversary launch noted that, "Most Americans alive today have little experience of what the world was like without an Interstate Highway System. But even as we take it for granted, we fail to recognize that virtually all our goods – from food and clothing to the stuff we send for on E-Bay – move on the Interstates en route to our homes."

For more information about the Interstate's birthday visit RIDOT's web page at www.dot.state.ri.us or AASHTO's website at www.interstate50th.org. A four-minute video about the history and future of the Interstate can be viewed at www.beerymedia.com/interstate50th2.mov.



ANNIVERSARY LAUNCH: RIDOT's Dana Alexander Nolfé greets Michigan Congressman John Dingell at the press event launching festivities for the 50th Anniversary of the Interstate.

You can be a part of RIDOT's Interstate history

Share your RIDOT transportation story with the rest of us. Work on a project you have always been proud of? Have a funny construction story you want to share? Did you do something at work that changed your life or someone else's? The Communication's Office wants to hear your story for the Department's celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Interstate. Contact Chief Public Affairs Officer Dana Alexander Nolfé at 222-1362 x4450 or dnolf@dot.state.ri.us to get your story told.

****Logo***

Continued from Page 1

Not long ago, Golden and Gannon realized that the ongoing system of producing logos for the State's trucks could be better accomplished in house. Instead of going through the State prison system, the sign shop could produce more durable logos at a lower cost, saving the State a significant amount of money.

Soon after that, the shop was asked to come up with the new and improved logo. Working with a few different concepts, Golden managed to design, "a more contemporary look, that was clean, simple, and bold." Gannon then proceeded to clean up the image and get production started.

By bringing in the wave graphic, originally designed during a project with Hope High School, Golden knew he could tie together the Department's existing slogans of "Ride with Pride" and "Catch the Wave." At the same time, the simplicity of the symbol let him keep it as, "corporate and professional" as was fitting. The symbol can now be spotted not only on plows but also on the Gateway signs welcoming motorists to the State.

Taking a great deal of pride and satisfaction in seeing their art around town, Golden and Gannon enjoyed meeting the challenge of developing a logo that would instill pride in RIDOT employees as well as represent the Ocean State.



CONSTRUCTION SAFETY DAY: Employees of construction related companies met at Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet in late September for safety demonstrations and presentations. Offering materials from the RIDOT Office of Highway Safety were Janis E. Loiselle, Chief, and Kathy E. Smith, both seen here at right, as well as James E. Barden. Seat belt usage was demonstrated and literature was distributed on child restraint seats, impaired driving, bicycle and pedestrian safety. A Rhode Island State Trooper conducted Standard Field Sobriety Tests with participants utilizing Fatal Vision goggles.

Career Service Awards presented

With Governor Carcieri on hand, Career Service Awards were presented for those who had achieved 35, 30, 25, 20, 15 and 10 years of service by June 2005. They included:

Thirty-Five Year Presentation

James R. Capaldi, Director; Craig W. Hallene of Highway & Bridge Maintenance, Belleville; Edmund T. Parker, Jr., Chief Engineer; and Bernard M. Robertson of Highway & Bridge Maintenance, Hope Valley

Thirty-Year Presentation

Fred S. Corey of Highway & Bridge Maintenance; John W. Fanning of Highway & Bridge Maintenance, Glocester; Robert E. Fisher Jr. of Materials; Robert B. Jackson of Real Estate; Francis R. Lussier of Highway & Bridge Maintenance, Lincoln; Richard McDonald of Highway & Bridge Maintenance, Hope Valley; John Ottaviano of Highway & Bridge Maintenance, Glocester; Paul E. Pysz of Human Resources; and Edward S. Szymanski of Environmental.

Twenty-Five Year Presentation

Jesse R. Bradley IV of Construction; Donald A. Carter of Traffic Design; Raymond A. Castiglio of Construction; James J. Garcia of Highway & Bridge Maintenance, Portsmouth; Denise M. Hassell of Highway & Bridge Maintenance; Vincent P. Herchen of Construction; Barry C. Higgins of Administrative Services; Edward P. Laurenzo of Construction; Robert W. Madden of Highway & Bridge Maintenance, Glocester; Jeffrey F. Nietupski of Highway & Bridge Maintenance, Hope Valley; Sherrie Lee Olivieri of Financial Management; Thomas J. Pandolfini, Sr. of Construction; John S. Spicola of Construction; and John D. Travisono of Highway & Bridge Maintenance, Glocester.

Twenty Year Presentation

Arthur G. Bovis of the Director's Office; Malcolm G. Brownell III of Survey; Joseph A. Bucci of Traffic Management; Sheleen M. Clarke of Highway & Bridge Maintenance Headquarters; Steve L. Drager of Construction; Michael A. Hebert of Environmental; George L. Jackvony Jr. of Highway & Bridge Maintenance, Traffic; Hugo E. Miranda of Highway & Bridge Maintenance, E. Providence; Roland O. Omisore of Construction; Richard J. Raczelowski of Construction; V. Jack Sabounjian of Construction; Albert J. Scatto of Highway & Bridge Maintenance, Lincoln; Frances Segerson of Public Affairs; Daniel P. Socree of Construction; James R. Sullivan of Construction; Richard J. Talbot of Highway & Bridge Maintenance, Bridge; and Emile E. Ziadeh of Road Design.

Fifteen Year Presentation

Lawrence T. Bailey of Construction; Jan J. Bak, Jr. of Materials; August J. Bigos Jr. of Highway & Bridge Maintenance, Lincoln; Robert D. Booth of Highway & Bridge Maintenance; Gary E. Bowen of Traffic Management; William A. Carcieri of Construction; Michael J. DeRotto of Road Design; Peter A. Desimone of Construction; Cindy A. DiGiglio of Highway & Bridge Maintenance Headquarters; Lisa Distefano of Transportation Support; Esam A. Eid of Construction; Russell D. Flamand of Highway & Bridge Maintenance, Bridge; John Gomes Jr. of MIS; Prince

Graham of Traffic Construction; Peter Healey of Road Design; Cheryl R. Lassy of MIS; John A. Manzi of Highway & Bridge Maintenance, Bridge; Richard Nery of Construction; Cynthia M. Pimentel of Director's Office; Robert W. Saunders of Highway & Bridge Maintenance, Bridge; Michael L. Savella of Bridge Design; Duane F. Soares of Construction; John F. Spiezo of Highway & Bridge Maintenance, Bridge; and Elaine P. Ventura of the Director's Office.

Ten Year Presentation

William P. Botelho of Highway & Bridge Maintenance, Belleville.



THIRTY YEAR CAREER AWARDS



TWENTY-FIVE YEAR CAREER AWARDS



TWENTY YEAR CAREER AWARDS

Comments show that visitors really like our bike paths

Peter Dupont of Greenville, wrote in late November to say: "Mostly, I walk the bike paths with my walking group and my dog. The trails are one of the best things that have happened for this State, and I appreciate their fine quality. Keep up the great work!"

Mark Wenzel of Salem, MA left a message in mid-October saying, "A group of us from work have visited Rhode Island's bike paths and back roads a number of times. Everyone of us has fallen in love with your State. The paths are always in great shape. We make a point of having lunch and support the local business as much as possible.

A number of us are planning to explore Providence on foot before winter. Thanks for your support of us cyclists, and peace."

In early October, Joe Snodgrass of Arlington, MA wrote to say, "Bravo for your efforts to promote bicycling in RI."

Amalfitano heads regional certification program

In December, David Amalfitano of RIDOT Materials was installed as President of the New England Transportation Technician Certification Program (NETTCP). NETTCP was established by the six New England states to certify the federal requirements for testing technician qualification in the areas of soils and aggregates; asphalt binder, plant and paving technician; concrete inspector; drilled shaft and driven pile foundation inspector and quality assurance technologist.

NETTCP strives to increase the knowledge of production and field technicians, to reduce the problems associated with test result differences, to eliminate individual state certifications programs and the issue of reciprocity, and to move forward in standardization of test methods and test procedures used by the six New England States.



DAVID AMALFITANO

Uses cameras for 'virtual' visit

Being originally from Rhode Island, now living in San Diego, California for one year, I really enjoy looking at Providence and the surrounding area through your cameras. There's not one photo that I don't know where in RI it is. It feels so good inside to be able to peak at a day back in my little Rhody. Please keep up the good work!

Mike
San Diego, CA

Felag a LRI Alpha II graduate

Mark E. Felag, Chief Civil Engineer of RIDOT Materials, graduated from the Leadership Rhode Island program in October. He was a member of the Alpha II class, Leadership RI's 25th class, and its graduation helped kick off the organization's 25th Anniversary year.

RIDOT loses one of its best in work zone accident

Francis "Chuck" Lussier

Francis "Chuck" R. Lussier, 52, of Cumberland, died in early October in an accident on Route 146. He had been a RIDOT employee for 31-years and operated heavy equipment out of the Lincoln facility. He was also an avid golfer and photographer, and had an active photography business on the side.

Lussier was part of a three-person crew performing electrical maintenance on the northbound side of Route 146 on October 6. The crew was getting ready to move the work site when Lussier was run over by a RIDOT truck.

The three-person crew was building up the asphalt because frost heaves over time lift the road higher than the metal covers over the electrical units servicing light stanchions within the median strip. The road build-up makes the metal covers flush with the road so winter plows don't hit them and cause damage.

DOT Director James R. Capaldi, P.E. said, "Chuck was an excellent member of the RIDOT family for nearly 31 years

and his presence will be missed. Chuck could be depended on to put in a good day's work and was considered to be one of the best workers the Department had."

Following the accident, Brad Sant, Vice President of Safety for the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) told the Providence Journal that construction, "is a dangerous line of work, and highway construction is probably the most dangerous." He explained that it is more common for highway workers to be killed after being hit by fellow crew members than by passing motorists.

Captain Raymond S. White of the Rhode Island State Police, told the media that, "The DOT, in my experience, is a very professional organization and takes precautions to protect the workers."

Lussier was survived by his mother, Florence Lussier; two sisters, Anita Hareter of Woonsocket, and Pauline Beauregard in Massachusetts; as well as a brother, Russell Lussier, in Oregon.



RAINBOW OVER MAINTENANCE: Vito Georgio of RIDOT Highway & Bridge Maintenance took this photo of a rainbow above RIDOT Highway & Bridge Maintenance Headquarters in Warwick in November. It's a beautiful photo, and it leaves us wondering: Did someone at Maintenance win the Lottery, or did someone at Maintenance have Lucky Charms for breakfast?



RIDOT ENGINEER Lambri Zerva, left, points out a landmark to Dylan Dreyer of WJAR NBC News Channel 10 during a media tour of the Iway project in Providence.

RIDOT adds live traffic camera images to Providence television station traffic reports

RIDOT has successfully established an Advanced Traveler Information System (ATIS) public/private partnership to disseminate video and other ITS related information to the public on a 24/7 basis. In November, RIDOT's Transportation Management Center (TMC) launched a new program with Cox Communications and Channels 10 and 12, allowing the TMC to provide live video streams for real time traffic reports.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS: Susan Shanley-Szala of RIDOT Intermodal Planning, and Tony Braga of RIDOT Financial Management, enjoyed the IFPTE Local 400 Holiday Party, held December 16, at Lancellotta's Restaurant, North Providence. About 100 union members and guests attended a buffet-style dinner, followed by dancing, with music provided by Local 400's own Vito Georgio of RIDOT Bridge Inspection/Maintenance. Each year, Local 400 holds a raffle and donates the proceeds to a charity. This year, \$360 was raised to be donated to a local heating assistance program for the poor.

RIDOT'S OWN POLAR BEARS: Anita Marshall, left, and Kate Wilson-Hoffman, right, both of RIDOT Design, are seen just after they left the surf as they participated in the January 1 Polar Bear Swim at Newport's Easton's Beach. Would they do it again? Marshall says, "Definitely! We're both planning on next year - it was exhilarating and thrilling!"



Leaving in style



THANKS FOR ALL YOUR WORK: Bruce Vandale, center, of RIDOT Construction retired from RIDOT on December 21, with greetings from Director Capaldi, and applause from Frank Corrao, Deputy Chief Engineer of RIDOT Construction.

Gina Zanni - Our friend at DMV

Gina Zanni, formerly of RIDOT Communications, returned to her roots at the Division of Motor Vehicles this fall, taking the position of Supervisor of Communications & Training. In her new job, she edits the DMV website, and assists RI.gov staff in adding new online services to the site. She also develops training materials and evaluations, writes press releases and informational publications, and schedules and coordinates press events.

She planned to attend an American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) Fraudulent Document Train-the-Trainer course in Washington, DC in late January, and will be one of two people certified to teach Fraudulent Document Recognition (FDR) in the state. In addition, she also assists Brian Peterson, Associate Director - Department of Administration, and former RIDOT Chief Financial Officer.



A FOND FAREWELL: Carolyn Corey of RIDOT Payroll and Marie McGlynn of RIDOT Human Resources both retired from State Service on Wednesday, December 21. Their offices made sure they left in style with a limousine escort, above, (the driver a former RIDOT employee) for a special lunch in their honor on Friday, December 16. Carolyn and Marie were surprised and flattered, and even got to meet Santa, below, at a coffee an' party on their last day.



Seeing out the old year, and welcoming 2006



NEW YEAR GREETINGS from Director Capaldi, second from left, to John Brock, left, of RIDOT Financial Management, as Antonio Santilli and Michael Albanese of Fleet Operations wait for the buffet. Sandra Nadeau, at right in left photo, enjoys the



buffet. In photo at right, Director Capaldi greets Cheryl Wilkes of RIDOT Human Resources and Maureen McMahon of RIDOT Real Estate, while Michael Bennett of RIDOT Environmental and Intermodal Planning admires the buffet.

New hires and retirees

New hires in late 2005 at the Department of Transportation included Ardena F. Lee-Fleming for Administrative Services; Amy Thibeault and Jennifer A. Raposa for Audits & Final Review; Anthony M. Pompei for Construction; Sean-Philip H. Bolduc for Design; Allison R. LeBlanc for Environmental; Linda L. Iannazzi, Joseph R. Tanzi Jr., Paul J. Pusyka, and Ann Rice to Financial Management.

Also Paul R. Vollaro Jr., Richard S. Bio, Edward Geoghegan, Owen J. Blanco, George Grillo, Leon F. Laramée, Bruno Grande, Antonio M. Mello, Michael Zbyszewski, Frank M. Rossi, Jeffrey Casale, Nicholas C. Pakuris, Steven A. Englehardt, John V. Olsen, and James W. Larivee to Highway & Bridge Maintenance; and Madis T. Suvari to Legal Services.

Retirees this fall/winter included Bruce L. Vandale of Construction; Don Muschiano, Marie O. Marcaccio, Albert J. Scatto, Donald G. Aguiar, Lauriston D. Ashe, Sr. and Wilfred P. Farland of Highway & Bridge Maintenance; Mary E. McGlynn of Human Resources; Carolyn M. Corey of Payroll; and Sheila MacColl and Stanley E. Severance of Real Estate.

What's in a street name?

Rapper Eminem used to hang out on Detroit's Eight Mile Road, the Motor City name marking distance to a central point downtown. Middletown, Rhode Island has intersections named One Mile Corner and Two Mile Corner, marking the distance from each to Newport City Hall.



WOULD THAT BE 'CURLY' BONES? Mark Felag, Chief Civil Engineer of RIDOT Materials, shows off his one-year-old male Bishon Frisé, named "Bones" Felag.



BIG SMILES: Tara and Dave Morgan (of RIDOT Bridge Design) proudly show off baby Maya, who arrived December 27, 2005 and weighed in at 7 lb., 11 oz.

Native Rhode Islander struggles with Louisiana relocation, finds home state a respite after Hurricane Katrina

Laurie Carbone Lightfoot, niece of RIDOT TMC Manager Cynthia Levesque, is a Rhode Islander, raised in Smithfield and a URI graduate. After marriage, she worked in the New Orleans office of a computer company. Her husband, Thomas Lightfoot, had started a chiropractic practice there. Last June Laurie gave birth to their first child, a daughter named Madison.

Everything was fine until Hurricane Katrina hit. They lost her job, his practice, and most of their possessions, including items they had been given for the baby.

The family evacuated, and spent several weeks with his aunt in LaFayette, Louisiana, over 100 miles west of New Orleans, where they are now renting a home. Levesque notes, "People have been generous to them, including friends and family, and her husband is trying to start over".

In October, they went into New Orleans to see their home and check whether anything was salvageable. In an email, she said, "The city was amazing. Our whole section was still without power and drinkable water, so it was weirdly quiet. There were huge piles of garbage in front of almost every house and all the buildings had the brown water line on them. I wish you could all see it. I can't do justice in describing how bizarre it was.

"Our house was gross, mold everywhere! The furniture was completely destroyed. We were able to salvage some plates and drinkware that was on higher shelves and hadn't hit the water, although 'water' is being generous, it was like a brownish muck. We had talked to a FEMA hazmat officer, who told us what we could try to salvage and what we should just give up."

Though they'd like to return to New Orleans, the family may stay in LaFayette if the new practice builds up a clientele. Levesque's niece and little Madison visited Rhode Island in October for a respite, a visit that the niece said was, "wonderful."



SPECIAL VISITOR: Jacqueline, center, and Emily Levesque, right, entertain their little cousin Madison Lightfoot, whose family evacuated New Orleans.



PROUD DAD: Alexis Leigh Nolan, left, daughter of Richard Nolan (RIDOT Construction) and Linda Gagne, poses with her Dad after her graduation from McGill University, City of Montreal, Quebec Province, Canada, in October. Alexis received a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing, graduating "With Distinction" (GPA above 3.0). Alexis is married and lives in Montreal, and has passed the Quebec Province exams for Registered Nurse. She is currently is working at the Jewish General Hospital, Labor and Delivery Floor, City of Montreal, Quebec, Canada.



AN EARLY SIGN of future interest? Nick Carter, right, enjoying his fourth Halloween (1986). He obviously showed an early interest in traffic control. Nick joined the RIDOT Highway and Bridge Maintenance Portsmouth Facility, in June 2005. He is the son of Don Carter of RIDOT Traffic Engineering, and Don's wife JoAnn. The family lives in Bristol.

A RECURRING ROLE on the soap opera "As the World Turns" was recently awarded to Rob Gorrie, the son of John Gorrie of RIDOT Survey. Rob started acting in 6th grade, and at 15 took a temporary break from Bishop Hendricken High School to participate in 30 auditions in Hollywood. He starred in "The Man Who Came to Dinner" at Hendricken. He was accepted at NYU, and restarted his acting career in the Big Apple. His first audition in New York was for "As the World Turns," and he won the part of Nate Bradley. Rob's role was expected to begin airing on January 27th. We know that one proud Dad had the VCR set up that day.

Family



NEW ARRIVAL: Evan, the son of Sandra Morel of RIDOT Legal Services and her husband Eric, was born October 27. He weighed 6 lbs. 6 oz, and was 19 inches long.



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I-295 North Visitors Center opens

State, federal, and local officials gathered January 9 for the opening of a new visitor's center/rest stop on Route 295 North in Lincoln. The complex also serves as an entrance to the Blackstone River Bikeway and the Blackstone River State Park.

Governor Carcieri noted that the facility provides a half-mile connection to the Blackstone Bikeway, as well as, "a convenient location for visitors to park their vehicles, unload their bikes, and buy refreshments."

The project is a cooperative effort between RIDOT, DEM, and FHWA. The refreshments franchise is responsible for day-to-day maintenance of the rest area including the parking lots, restrooms, and interior public spaces.



VISITORS CENTER OPENING: RIDOT Director Capaldi, FHWA Rhode Island Division Administrator Lucy Garliauskas, Senator Lincoln Chafee, Lincoln Council President Elizabeth Robinson, Lincoln Town Administrator Sue Shepard, Representative Richard Singleton, Governor Carcieri, and Larry Mouradjian of RIDEM cut the ribbon to officially open the I-295 Visitors Center. (Photo by Chuck Aube)

RIDOT Blood Drive March 30

RIDOT will sponsor its Annual Employee Blood Drive on March 30 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Rhode Island Blood Center, 405 Promenade St. in Providence.

The RIDOT Human Resources Web Page (<http://www.dot.state.ri.us/human->

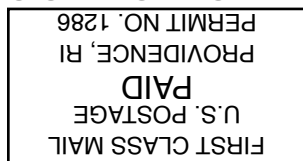
[resources/](#)) has a link to the RI Blood Center's standard pre-donation guidelines and further information about becoming a blood donor. All those who register to donate will receive Administrative Leave, and all donors will be entered in the Blood Drive's extensive raffle drawing.

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James R. Capaldi, PE.



FIRST CLASS



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